

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 166478 TOSEC 180004

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ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 /016 R

66011

DRAFTED BY:S/S-O:R. GAMBLE

APPROVED BY:R. GAMBLE

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P 040423Z JUL 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 166478 TOSEC 180004

FOLLOWING MADRID 5177 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO BONN LONDON  
PARIS ROME BRUSSELS STOCKHOLM OSLO COPENHAGEN NATO  
EC BRUSSELS JULY 3; REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 5177

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SP

SUBJECT: KING NAMES SUAREZ NEW PRIME MINISTER

1. THE KING NAMED ADOLFO SUAREZ GONZALEZ PRIME MINISTER TODAY.  
WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE OTHER TWO MEMBERS OF THE PANEL OF THREE  
MAY HAVE BEEN AREILZA AND SILVA MUNOZ (THE CONSERVATIVE CHRISTIAN  
DEMOCRAT) BUT THIS IS NOT CONFIRMED.

2. SUAREZ IS YOUNG AS SPANISH POLITICAL LEADERS GO (43 YEARS  
OLD), BRIGHT AND HIGHLY ARTICULATE, AND HAILS FROM THE PROVINCE  
OF AVILA. THOUGH HE CAME UP THROUGH THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT, HE HAS  
DEMONSTRATED FLEXIBILITY AND PRAGMATISM AND HAS BEEN ONE OF THE  
OLD CABINET'S ACKNOWLEDGED REFORMERS AND A MAN WHO HAS GROWN  
INCREASINGLY CLOSE TO THE KING. IN HIS POST OF MINISTER OF THE  
NATIONAL MOVEMENT, IT WAS HIS TASK TO DEEMPHASIZE THIS CREATION  
OF FRANCO IN ORDER TO PAVE THE WAY FOR NORMAL POLITICAL ACTIVITY.  
OPPOSITION FIGURES OFTEN SPEAK WELL OF HIM, BUT HIS REFORMIST  
STANCE HAS GAINED HIM ENEMIES ON THE RIGHT.

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PAGE 02 STATE 166478 TOSEC 180004

3. BASIC BIO INFO WAS FURNISHED IN MADRID'S 8121, AND SOME INSIGHTS INTO HIS THINKING ARE FOUND IN MADRID'S 7513, 7823, 7986 (NOTAL) AND MADRID'S A-211 OF OCTOBER 31, 1975. SUAREZ'S VIEWS HAVE BEEN CONTINUINGLY EVOLVING (E.G. AT THE TIME OF FRANCO'S DEATH, HE WAS AN ADVOCATE OF KEEPING ARIAS IN THE PRIME MINISTRY, BUT LATER HE BECAME CONCERNED ABOUT ARIAS'S LEADERSHIP.) IN THE LIGHT OF HIS NEW RESPONSIBILITIES, ONE EARLIER COMMENT OF SUAREZ TO US IS WORTH RECALLING, HIS REMARK THAT EVENTS RATHER THAN PROGRAMMATIC THEORIES WOULD HAVE TO GOVERN POLITICAL APPROACHES IN THE TRANSITION. STABLER UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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